Wet or Damp Basements

CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

Basement wetness or dampness may occur for a variety of reasons, but in many cases can be reduced or eliminated.

City of Bowling Green

Storm Sewer

Storm sewers collect rainwater and melting snow through catch basins, eaves troughs, downspouts, foundation drains, etc., and carry this stormwater to detention ponds, local ditches and nearby streams. Typically, stormwater is moved by gravity sewers, but in some cases stormwater pump/lift stations are utilized.

Sanitary Sewer

Wastewater (sewage) produced through use of plumbing fixtures (such as toilets, sinks, bathtubs, showers, etc.) is moved through a sanitary sewer lateral from the building to municipal sanitary sewers, typically located under or near streets. Sanitary sewers carry wastewater by gravity and the use of lift stations to the municipal Water Pollution Control facility (wastewater treatment plant) on Dunbridge Road.

Combined Sewer

The City's first sewers were combined sewers designed to handle both wastewater (sewage) and stormwater. Combined sewers still serve about 40% of the city, typically in the earliest developed areas.

During some heavy rainfall events or spring thaws, stormwater and wastewater volumes can exceed the capacity of the combined sewer system. Wet basements occur when combined sewers are unable to accept additional flow, causing wastewater and stormwater to back up through building sewer laterals and enter basements through basement floor drains, toilets, showers or other cellar plumbing fixtures.

The City is currently developing a Long Term Control Plan to address combined sewer overflows.

What to do if you experience a wet basement:

Remove valuables from wet and damp areas.

Verify proper sump pump operation.

Call the City of Bowling Green (or the Police Department during non-business hours at 419-352-2571) and report the problem.

Call a local plumber if additional pumping assistance is needed.

Take photographs to document what occurred. This will help evaluate and solve problems.

Direct any questions to the City of Bowling Green Water Distribution/Wastewater Collection Division.
419-354-6277 **BGWaterSewer@bgohio.org** **www.bgohio.org**